



September 2011

Volume 7, Issue 09

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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Well hello again fellow club members...

Late as usual!

It seems that the year/month/week has been very busy for your loyal editor/prez/copy boy, and some things have been falling through the cracks.

Never fear, club members, our Board of Directors and club officers are working hard behind the scenes to keep things on an even keel here.



In other news, summer finally showed up late, just like your truly, but its been nice to see some warmer late summer days finally appear. This is our last chance to get some of those summer projects finished.

Here at the club, we are preparing for the Washington State QSO party which is a great fun activity and also a nice fund raiser for the club. Come on by for the fun on September 17-18. The more the merrier.

On a related note, some of the "behind the scenes" folks are in the process of making plans and designs for the clubhouse front room. A couple of interesting proposals have been sent to the board for consideration. Once this process is complete, we expect to see a much better front room that more fully displays the hobby and the club.

Right now, the front room, also known as the "Lou Simmons room" looks kind of like some of our own living rooms or shacks... A bit messy and not really fit for visitors. We plan to change that so that the front room looks inviting, clean, and modern with a new(er) set of ham radio gear that can do all modes and be accessible to all members.

Suggestions welcomed.

73 Gary WG7X

3 August 2011

The 3 August 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President:	Al Churchill AC7BU
Treasurer	Bob Purdom
Board Member	Frank Palmer AC7JY
Board Member	Si Nelsen KA7AQT
Board Member	Crystal Quamme K7XK
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 names on the attendance roster.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Al N7OMS reported on Dawn Pier's progress. She is currently at Harborview and in a wheelchair. Peter AD7EU's mother is scheduled for a biopsy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Absent

Correspondence: Reported by Bob AD7LJ

Minutes: There being no quorum at the July Board meeting:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 1 June and July Board meetings as corrected and coordinated.

A copy of the current correspondence log is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob AD7LJ

Bob distributed the June and July Financial Report. *A copy of the financial report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: No Report.

Repeater Committee: - No Report.

Property Management: - Frank AC7JY distributed the property disposition list for this year's Hamfest. The list includes one of our Generators to be offered for \$ 800.00. He announced that the Country Store will be managed by the Property Management Committee.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the proposed disposition list for Hamfest.

Hamfest: Bob AC7LJ reports that Larry KD4VOM requests a motion to temporarily transfer \$600.00 to the Hamfest account for cash box change.

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the temporary transfer of \$ 600.00 to the Hamfest account for cash box cash funds.

Field Day: - Al Ferguson N7OMS

Al reports he has submitted data to the ARRL. The process proved to be confusing and cumbersome. Bob AC7LJ reported that the bill for Field Day Portapotties came to his personal address, and that he has paid the bill which was \$ 400.00, the same as last year. Bob pointed out that we have not had an increase in this expense because the vendor is giving us a break as a non-profit organization.

There ensued a discussion centered on planning for next year's Field Day. Al N7OMS noted that he will likely not be available to head up the Field Day operation next year. Bob AC7LJ reported that we are permanently on the Western State Hospital's calendar for Field Day every year.

Discussion: If we have Field Day again next year the Board must act now to get leadership for the project.

Library Committee: Doug AD7AV

Doug provided a review of the Library Committee's activities and operations over the past few months. The circulating library seems to be working well and most lent items are returning to the library as they should. Our subscriptions to the Contest Journal and QEX magazines have been established and KR7W has crafted a very nice rack in the library area to hold them. Rich is also working on a locking system for some of the shelves to protect some particularly rare and valuable library holdings. Nick K7MO noted that he has several DX videos that will be donated to the club when they can be protected from possible theft.

The W7BUN manuals collection inventory has essentially completed and the listing will be posted to the library computer when the final computer merge has been completed. There was a discussion of copyright and fair use issues relative to the manuals collection, and Doug will coordinate with Joe K7ZG to develop a recommendation for our management of the holdings.

Future activity includes; recommending library materials for disposition to the Property Management Committee, highlighting library holdings through periodic book reviews or displays to the membership, work on the club archives, and identifying the Library 2012 goals and budget.

Doug's flexibility to support the W7DK Library operations has recently been severely curtailed by his return to teaching and other duties at PLU.

A copy of the Library report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Museum: No Report

Training: No Report.

W7DK At the Fair:

Steve Morton AD7AB continues to seek volunteers. The W7DK.org website is now set up for W7DK at the Fair duty volunteers in September. [H t t p : / w w w . w 7 d k . o r g / WWF/2011 WWF Signup.htm](http://www.w7dk.org/WWF/2011WWFSignup.htm)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Salmon Run: Al N7OMS proposed that the club sponsor a "Clean Sweep" Mug prize with the Western Washington DX Club. Nick, K7MO noted that there is a Salmon Run Plaque awaiting presentation to the club, this could be done at a future membership meeting. Frank AC7JY said that the 4th Wednesday in August is open Nick will coordinate with WWDX club Salmon Run Manager

Motion: That the Radio Club of Tacoma Sponsor a "Clean Sweep" mug including the purchase of 12 mugs to be authorized, but not printed after the Salmon Run for presentation following the Salmon Run.

Discussion: What will the mugs say, Salmon Run logo on front, and RCT Logo on the back? Nick K7MO noted that other organizations also support Salmon Run by sponsoring awards...

Fund Raising Project/ 95th Anniversary Planning: Al Ferguson N7OMS –

Al reports that his proposal and request for someone to manage the 95th Anniversary/Fund Raising Project at Joessepi's, had only one response. There was a discussion about the lack of volunteers to head up the project, and possibly dropping the proposal. Al pointed out that e-mails, Bark articles and solicitations at club meetings almost never result in someone stepping forward to take on a project. What has worked is direct contact with individuals and asking them to step up.

At this point there is no manager for the project, and time is running out.

Joessepi's is tentatively reserved for October 16th.

HF Radio Room/Simmons Room/Library Project: Al N7OMS.

Al presented the rationale for and a detailed outline of the proposed HF-Simmons' room-Library construction project together with a request for funding in the amount of \$ 1,500.00.

Rationale: This project would:

Improve the utility of the Simmons room for VE, small committee, and Consolidate club administration work and materials in one location

Provide a handicapped accessible HF station on the first floor

Reestablish a digital station to attract existing and new members

Provide a clean and professional appearance to club members and visitors

Accommodate the needs of the Volunteer Examiner coordinator and his team

Expand the HF room to accommodate up to four existing or future HF Stations and/or permit members to bring in their equipment etc. *(This project is not about buying new HF equipment, but rather remodeling the HF room to accommodate future growth and enable expanded use of the HF room by members)*

Improve and provide expanded secure display capabilities for more of our Club's History and Museum artifacts.

Construction: This project would:

HF Room: Clear out the HF room by relocating the Museum artifacts and existing workstation. Manufacture and install Four new workstation benches. Replace the current lighting with four ceiling can lights

Simmons Room: Remove the currently installed fixed benches and shelving on the East and South walls, Remove the false wall on the South side opening up the existing windows.

Repair the walls; install alarms, Cat 5 LAN connections to the switch and antenna feed from upstairs. Install upper shelves for displays,

Create a club administration station from existing or new materials, 4 file cabinets for the club and VE coordinators use, and an HF station and associated computer which would be shared with the club administration station.

Cut down the existing conference table. & repaint.

Library/Museum

Convert the North East corner of the library space into Museum Display using the lockable glass display case.

A copy of N7OMS' project rationale and construction proposal are attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Al recommends we promote this project through the BARK, at club meetings and by e-mail notices.

Discussion: AD7LJ presented K7MXE's proposal to expand the clubhouse by adding to the

building on the South side. A discussion followed about the possibility of conflicts with the N7OMS proposal, and an array of unanswered questions dealing with Tacoma City Permitting, setbacks, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other potential issues which could arise.

The President, Gary WG7X established an Ad Hoc committee to evaluate the proposals. The Committee will consist of President Gary WG7X Chairman, Nick K7MO, Chuck AC7QN, Bruce WE7P, Bob K7MXE, Bob AD7LJ, and Larry KD4VOM. Al N7OMS offered to support and defend his proposal if requested by the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

DNR Request for repeater information. The recent Department of Natural Resources letter soliciting information in support of our public service and emergency operations for the Crawford Mountain Repeater was discussed: Nick, K7MO will work with the Secretary to respond to this request for information.

Lawn Care Weed Eater: Action pending: The lawn maintenance folks to evaluate the utility and costs of candidate weed eaters and make a recommendation to the Board.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Neighbor's request: to allow children to play in our parking area. Bob AD7LJ reported receipt of the letter sent by Randy Myers

Since there has been no request from the neighbor, there is no action necessary.

Club Flag: Frank AC7LJ offered a motion on behalf of a member who asked if we had a club flag.

Motion made, seconded and passed: That we have a club logo flag created.

Discussion: Some don't like the logo... some do. Same size or smaller than the current American Flag we fly our pole, or at club events...

Discussion: We need a design to consider, The Chair appointed David Riley, N7PVZ to develop a design and cost information for the proposed flag.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

10 August 2011 MINUTES

The 10 August 2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Vice President Al AC7BU called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Bob Purdom ADLJ

Board: Frank Palmer AC7JY

Board: Si Nelson KA7AQT

Board: Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 37 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Al AC7BU

INTRODUCTIONS: Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. A new RCT Life member Ray Miller KC7VEP was welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Al N7OMS reported that Dawn Pier has recovered enough to be transferred to Harbor view Hospital but her status is unknown.

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reports the usual utility bills, Hamfest registrations and a QSL card.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VE Report: John AC7WW

I would like to say that we had an overflow crowd at the testing session on Tuesday August 9th. However we served three candidates. A total of six elements were graded with four being passed. One candidate passed element one to join the Amateur Radio Service as a Technician. Another passed element one and two to become a General. The third candidate passed element four to upgrade to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Leonard, KA7NWF

Jan, K7HTU

Rich, KK7VH

Don, K7QLC

Dick, W1UG

John, AD7AW

Stephen, D7AB

W7DK Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reports a hitch in our Hamfest planning as the Bethel Jr. High people have advised us that we will not be able to use the large gym this year, so we are crowded into the smaller North Gym. Because we were unable to find club members to do the Snack Bar, we contracted with a commercial food vendor to cover Friday evening and Saturday.

Maury, W7OT reports there are still Hamfest vacancies for setup and selling admission tickets and help moving pallets from the clubhouse to the school on Friday, August 12th. Maury discussed the two requirements, the team to be at the clubhouse to load the gear from there, and another team to be at the school to assist in unloading and vendor setup.

HamFest CW contests: Randy WB4SBP is arranging for two CW events at the Hamfest, one Left Foot Key contest, and the second a series of mp3 players scattered around the site for contestants to log the messages. Prizes will be awarded.

Training: Steve AD7AB announced the next Technician Class is filling up for 8/9 October, there is room for a few more.

W7DK at the Fair: All were reminded all that Steve AD7AB has all the information and sign up forms on the W7DK.org website and is seeking volunteers to fill the 30 vacant slots.

PROGRAM: Frank AC7JY, arranged for tonight's video program, **The Dayton Hamfest 2009.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLUB FLAG: Frank AC7JY announced that a request from a member about the possibility of a Club Flag was well received by the Board and a Committee chaired by David N7PVZ were asked to come up with a proposed design and estimated cost. Board member Crystal Quamme K7XK also reported she may be able to help us find US and Washington State Flags as well.

ELMERING: Steve AD7AB wants to get our Elmer list going again, please contact Steve to let him know you want to help and which areas you have expertise to offer.

SHOW AND TELL:

RARE LIBRARY ADDITION: Al N7OMS reported a new library addition. "How to pass US Government Exams" .dated 1917, the author is E. E . Butcher, the original "Elmer" Al passed around this new book for members to see.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None reported

DOOR PRIZE: Tonight's prize, Tonight's Raffle prize, an admission ticket for the Hamfest was won by Randy WB7SPB

RAFFLE PRIZE: Tonight's raffle prize was a computer power distribution system. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

24 August 2011 MINUTES

The 24August 2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Al AC7BU called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Board: Frank Palmer AC7JY
Board: Si Nelson KA7AQT
Board: Nick Winter K7MO
Board: Crystal Quamme K7XK

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 47 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Al AC7BU

INTRODUCTIONS: Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. .

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

It was reported the Mike Elwell W7GHW was hospitalized and is undergoing radiation therapy. W7WG reports that Al Williams K7PUC had a fall several weeks back and may not be doing well.

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reports the usual utility bills and membership applications/renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VE Report: John AC7WW reported on the Hamfest Testing session.

We had five candidates at the Radio Club of Tacoma's Ham Fest Saturday August 13th testing session. Six elements were graded by four Volunteer Examiners with five elements being passed. Results of the session were two new Technicians, one upgrade to General and two brothers upgraded to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Jon, AD7AW Rich, KK7VH Jim, N7RHX

There will be a testing session at the LDS Church in Gig Harbor on Saturday August 27th.

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

W7DK Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reported that the Hamfest went reasonably well given the last minute move to the older gym. We were able to squeeze more tables in by reducing the aisle size to support all who had reserved tables. Initial information indicates we had over 400 attendees.

Training: Steve AD7AB announced the next Technician Class is filling up for 8/9 October, there is room for a few more.

W7DK at the Fair: Steve AD7AB has all the information and sign up forms on the W7DK.org website and is seeking volunteers to fill the vacant slots. Time is running short...

PROGRAM: Salmon Run: Jim Hadlock

K7WA presented tonight's program with a review of the history of the Washington State QSO Party which was originated by the Boeing amateur radio club, and was reborn under the auspices of the Western Washington DX Club. The Salmon Run is celebrating its 20th year this September. Jim presented a brief slide show of some of the past years Salmon Run operations with emphasis on those who travel to other counties to operate.

Jim also presented the Best Club score plaque to the Radio Club of Tacoma. Al N7OMS accepted the award on behalf of the Salmon Run team.

Al announced that the Club has decided to present a "Clean Sweep" Mug to those who manage a Washington State 39 county clean sweep.

Al also reminded all that the club runs an annual pledge drive concurrent with Salmon Run, asking members to pledge donations, typically a per Washington County amount, but there have also been challenges, and unique requirements established by some for their pledges.

Salmon Run is coming up September 17th and 18th. Full information and the rules are available at the Western Washington DC Club website: <http://www.wwdxc.org/salmonrun/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

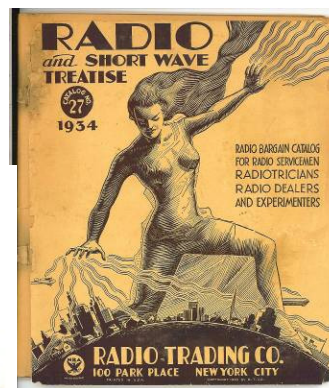
W7DK CHRISTMAS BANQUET: Jim Mendenhall KE6WHN announced this year's pot luck banquet and awards ceremonies will be at the TACID building on 3 December and will be an afternoon event.

SHOW AND TELL: None presented

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None reported

DOOR PRIZE: Tonight's prize, Tonight's Raffle prize, a length of coax was won by Mike W7XTZ

RAFFLE PRIZE: Tonight's raffle prize was a micro generator driven light, won by Charles KD7UAN.



SALMON RUN... FINAL WARNING!

This will be the 5th anniversary of the Radio Club of Tacoma's Salmon Run fund raiser which will be done during the 45th year of the Washington State QSO party. The WWDXC will again be hosting this event for the 20th time since they took over the State QSO party and dubbed it the Salmon Run. It should be noted that the Radio Club of Tacoma will be turning 95 this year. With all those multiples of 5 I am really hoping there will be some kind of cosmic support that help us achieve my fondest goal. A clean sweep of all 39 counties. We came very close last year contacting 38 of 39 but the contest crew of "The Mighty DK" have only gotten close. Checking the Web site of the Western Washington DX Club I see that in 2010 3 stations reached that lofty peak.

One of the things that I have learned these last 5 years is that to even have a chance of putting 39 counties into the log you are going to need help. If you have done any traveling in Washington State you have traveled across large areas of farmland, mountains, forest, military bases and prairie.

What this means is a low population of resident Ham Radio Operators in some counties. If a county only has one or two hams and they don't happen to operate the QSO party the only way to log them is if someone goes there. The rules for the Salmon Run have a couple of ways this can be done.

Washington mobile is one such method. The following is from the WWDXC web page on rules for the Salmon Run 2011.

"Mobile class entrants must operate from a station that is self-contained, capable of legal motion (street, water, or air) while operating, motion optional. A Mobile station cannot use land-based supports for any antennas at any time – no dipole strung in trees, no counterpoises stretched from a mobile antenna to a convenient fence post, etc."

Another way to activate a county is Washington Roving. Here is the definition from the Web site "Roving class rules are the same as Mobile class with the exception that Roving class entrants may use temporary antennas attached to land-based supports (dipoles strung in trees, portable towers with yagis, etc). The supports may not be used to support permanent antennas before or after the contest. I.e. The use of permanent antenna supports is not allowed."

The 3rd way is Washington County Expedition and has been using with very good results by N7PP, Jerry Seligman's W7BUN (SK) contest club that has been revived by Nick K7MO and his group. Rules are as follows.

The Washington County Expedition class is intended for those who cannot go true mobile, but would like to activate some rare counties by going to a state park or farmer's field and throwing up a dipole or other portable antenna "Field Day Style".

- Operate from no more than two locations (county-line locations OK, four counties max)
- The location may not be that of a permanent amateur station
- Portable antennas must be used
- All antennas must be temporarily erected for the contest and removed afterwards
- Commercial power may be used
- If you move to a new county you must travel a minimum of 5 miles between locations
- Stations operating from five or more counties will be considered Rover class entries."

Adventure awaits those that choose one of these methods to help out their fellow hams. Rich KR7W and Chuck AC7QN have given several programs for club members documenting their adventures in Eastern Washington. Nick K7MO has also shown us pictures of N7PP doing Washington County Expedition with the fog and cold that can be found in Eastern Washington that time of year. I would like to think that because of the Tacoma Radio Club's fund raising involvement with the Salmon Run that even more club members have taken to the field. Like Joe K7ZG, Frank AC7JY and Jill K7JL who's stories have been shared around cups of coffee during the open house Saturdays.

We have one member in particular who was bitten by the contest bug just this last W7DK Field Day. Mike W7XTZ is doing Salmon Run in a big way. With the help of Lee KE7NBM (new member), Gary W7TRJ, Roy N7AVN they will be going to Mike's wife's family homestead on Orcas Island and activate San Juan County. On top of that Mike has gotten the special event call W7A. Be sure you check out the biography for W7A on QRZ.com. It may make you think again before you board for your next ferry trip. Good luck Mike and gang hope to put you in the log at W7DK during the Salmon Run weekend coming up on the 17th and 18th of September.

I have heard a few rumors of others that may be headed out with radios in hand to see some of our beautiful state. If so be sure you listen for W7DK and give us a shout. Also pictures and a few words would be great. Something we could post on the web site and put in the Bark. Those of us that will be staying close to home could use the thrill.

For those who are staying home that weekend we do have something to offer you. Saturday the 17th at 18:00 hours we are going to host a Birthday party potluck. I have asked Worth WG7X if we could share his birthday celebration and combine it with the Salmon Run pot luck. He was delighted to do so and hopes we have a big turnout. Worth does like a good party! This party potluck will be for all members whether you can donate to the fund raiser or not. So please join us and help celebrate Worth's Birthday. You can check on W7DK's progress toward reaching that fabulous clean sweep and wish Worth a Happy Birthday.

We are hoping to follow last year's format with a S&P station in the museum and a Run station in the HF room. There is a good chance if you visit the club the door to the HF room will be closed. This is so the operator can focus. Things can happen quickly when you are running a frequency and the operator cannot stop to answer questions. Also unnecessary noise can make it very difficult to hear those exchanges correctly. I would also ask that visitors respect the operators in the S&P station but things are usually a little slower and the atmosphere more relaxed. If you can handle running a frequency or are adept at digging out the hard ones using S&P please consider helping the crew at W7DK. We have quite a few of our contest staff going out and about and are in need of operators to fill the seats. We'll be using N1MM as the logging program and hope to have the club computers networked. This way the logs will update live and the visitors will not even have to go upstairs to see how the club is doing.

The club has basically 3 sources of income. Dues, Ham fest and the Salmon Run fund raiser. The board and officers have done a good job of using those funds wisely. We do get monies from the sale of donated gear but that can be as volatile as the Stock Market and with the ease of using e-bay donations are somewhat down. The Club House as with any structure needs maintenance and if you look at the calendar you will see that we have several fun events throughout the year. Very little has been spent on newer gear and if we want to keep up with the technology that will be a very real concern. I also know that the club's staff is maintaining 3 2 meter repeaters and 1 440 repeater, IRLP, and the club Website. I would guess that most of us would want those services and events to continue and even see us do more. That is why we are asking you to consider a pledge to the Salmon Run Fund raiser. As a 501(c)3 we are even a great tax deduction. Thanks for reading this and being a member of one of the most active and fun Ham Radio Clubs in the United States.

A1 N7OMS

Dateline: September 2011

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more.

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Legacy photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Jamboree on the Air
- Attaboys

Legacy Photo

Some things just don't change, here's a 1972 Hamfest Country Store Photo, pretty classy hat, and the equipment looks

about the same vintage as this years stack.



Around the Club...

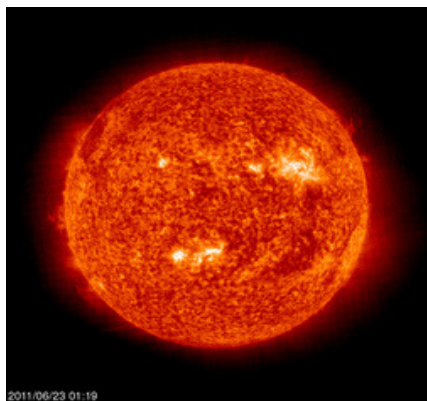
Hamfest 2011 succeeded in spite of some unforeseen and last minute setbacks is in the history books. Although we were crowded due to the last minute change in the availability of the main GM we recovered and managed to two accommodate not only all of the registered vendors but even had a table to spare for two. The good news was that we had over 400 attendees. Despite the crowding the vendors what did a brisk business, the country store did very well and the attendees went home with some cherished treasures. It's likely impossible to count the volunteer hours invested in the Hamfest, but we know who invested their skills, time and effort to make it happen. We'd like to take some time here to recognize those folks. The Papa Victor Zulu team David and James Riley, N7PVZ and KE7PVZ were the anchor team which included Mike W7XTZ and Al K7HW's great grandson Master Taylor Shelton for the vendor unload and loading work, helping deploy the power distribution grid, setting up and tearing down tables and just about anything else that needed to be done. Peter Baker AD7EU hustled gear around to the vendor tables navigating the narrow aisle with the skill of a New York taxi driver. Jim Hathaway, K7SSS helped set up and move tables around until we had squeezed eight rows where we would normally have had only 7, not only creating room for all the registered vendors but actually a few extra tables for walk-ins and late registrations. Jim also posted the door prize and raffle numbers for everyone to check their tickets against. John Clarke AC7WW Jon Hamilton AC7AW along with assistance from Bob Hewlitt N7NCP handled the vendor reception table with skill. Jim Mendenhall KE7WHN headed up the Security and Parking crew with Jay KD7DKY, supervising the Civil Air Patrol Cadet team in their assigned duties. Special kudos to the Country Store Team who selected, loaded, and sold club gear as well as one of our two old generators and trailer. The Property Management crew handled the Country Store and includes Frank AC7JY, Bruce WE7P, Bob K7MXE, Jack K7DBU, Pete KK7QW, Al N7OMS and a special thanks to Chuck AC7QN who hauled the generator trailer to the Hamfest site. Steve Morton AD7AB headed up the Admission and Raffle crew. Greta and Bob Hewlitt KS7KSW and N7NCP held down the admission desk while..... hawked raffle tickets.

Jack K7DBU also handled test station chores. We're in debt to Rich KR7W who pretty much moved all the gear for, setup and managed the W7OS Antique Radio Station, well done. Randy

Myers added a CW touch this year, running two CW events, One challenged the operator to send with the club's famous Left Foot Key, and the other asked contestants to find and copy several mp3 players scattered around the site. VP Al Churchill AC7BU worked wherever needed, including providing a pop up tent and running to the bank for change along with other sundry duties. Of course there was a lot of preparation work that happened well before the big day. The school had to be reserved, tables contracted for, ARRL sanction gained, asking for door prize donations, building the flyer/registration form, having several thousand printed and over 1,500 handed out in the lines waiting to get in to the March Mike and Key Hamfest in Puyallup. Over 1,300 letters were mailed to regional hams, clubs, vendors, and especially to new or upgraded hams in the area. Special thanks go to Karl Johnson K7KHJ who managed the Hamfest database and did most of the behind the scenes preparation and printing for the huge mailing exercise. Maury W7OT joined the Hamfest team this year and did a bang up job getting folks to fill the jobs we needed, helped with researching and arranging for the food vendor, and managing the door prize and raffle operations. The contract vendor we arranged for did a great job, but found sales did not cover his expenses and will not be back next year.

ARRL...and such...

SOLAR UPDATE



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, June 23, 2011 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This image was taken at 304 Angstrom; the bright material is at 60,000 to 80,000 Kelvin.

Tad "The warmth of the Sun is in your smile" Cook, K7RA, reports: Solar activity was down again this week – the sunspot number on Sunday went all the way to 0 for the first time since January 27, which was 29 weeks ago. The average daily sunspot numbers declined nearly 50 points, to 25.6, while the average daily solar flux was down nearly 16 points to 88.5. The latest prediction from NOAA/USAF on August 17 has the solar flux at 98 on August 18, 100 on August 19-21, 105 on August 22-24, then 110, 115, and 115 on August 25-27, and back to 110 on August 28-31. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on August 18-20, 8 on August 21, 5 on August 22-25, 15, 10 and 8 on August 26-28, and 5 again on August 29-31. Thanks to Max White, MOVNG, of Worcester, England, for sending along this story from NASA, "Solar Flares: What Does It Take to Be X-class?" Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, August 19. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Bangles' *Waiting for You*.

CONVERSATION

From Ward Silver's Contest Journal...

A Personal Touch

Not so long ago, I was outside just after a warm summer's dusk with a group of friends, enjoying the good weather and clear skies. I also knew that the International Space Station was going to make a long, high-elevation pass at about the same time and suggested that the group move into the clear where they could see it. Several were amazed to find out they could see it from

the ground without a telescope and I assured them it would be surprisingly bright. (You can find visible passes of the ISS, optical flares from the Iridium satellite solar panels, amateur birds, and many other space objects at the Heavens-Above website.)

As we scanned the southwestern skies, I fielded questions about how high the station was (about 200 miles) and how fast it would travel (this pass was going to last more than four minutes) and how I knew this (the web is pretty useful at times). Then, right on time, a bright spot of light suddenly became visible and the questions turned to appreciative comments as it climbed up toward the zenith and passed overhead. As an added bonus, just before the pass was over, the station passed into the Earth's shadow and abruptly winked out, so I got to explain that, too. I fielded a lot more questions and I'm sure several of the watchers have done the same on their own since that evening.

Here's what I'm talking about - Sean KX9X and Mike K5PMC show a group from the recent ARRL Teacher's Institute how satellite QSOs are made - they racked up more than a dozen contacts during a short pass of AO-27 as far west as Wyoming. (Photo by NØAX)



What does this have to do with ham radio? Well, quite a bit, actually. While my friends knew of the station, they had never actually seen it. It was an abstract bit of knowledge that had little connection to their daily lives. But standing outside on a summer evening, watching it travel overhead and knowing that there were astronauts on board changed everything. That personal, visceral experience gave them a personal connection to what was just some initials an hour before.

Less long ago (like last weekend) I attended the annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention this weekend - I had a *great* time seeing all my friends again and catching up on how things were going in this far-flung corner of the U.S. It's said you can't go home again and that may be true...but you can sure visit! As I pulled into the Everett Holiday Inn parking lot, I noticed a large semi-trailer out front on the street painted a raucous lime green and festooned with insignia and logos. As it turned out, the Endurocross motorcycle race was being held on the same weekend and we were sharing the hotel with a lot of racers and fans.

As you might expect, there was some overlap between the two groups, such as at breakfast. They were curious about the badges and call signs and after we got past the inevitable, "Ham radio - do you still do that?" they were quite interested in our "radio cross" events and DXing and that sort of thing. The key point, though, is that they were completely unaware of our existence.

The big semi had on its side a logo for the "world's fastest radio control technology" - so it's not like the race crowd is unaware of wireless technology. They are just unaware of *us* - that people are still using radio for *fun* and not as a kind of "smart wire" was news to them. We've essentially dropped out of that conversation because they had no connection with their lives. Without that personal connection, ham radio has little chance of re-entering their conversation with the world.

Here's where you and maybe your club come in. Unless we - as in you and I - get out there and put ourselves in the public eye, we (and ham radio) are going to stay a caricatured mystery to the lay public even though they may be technically savvy and bright. People are not going to pick up a brochure and somehow get interested enough to participate in ham radio. They need to see real people doing something that looks useful (such as building a kit or antenna) and fun (such as radiosport).

and garages and spare bedrooms and put feet on the ground where people are. We need to be doing something where and when other people are around. A club can set up shop every so often at a mall or near sports fields (kids everywhere!) or in a favorite public park - anywhere people are likely to see you and have enough free time to ask questions.

Just get out there and be yourselves! Laugh a lot. Smile and shake hands. Don't sit behind a table like it was a castle wall - stand out front and greet people in a friendly way. Talk to them and hand them a flyer with your website and lists of local clubs and stores - don't wait for them to take it. Look like you're having a good time, for crying out loud! It's amazing how well just having fun works as a marketing tool.

A simple station will do - have somebody building a kit or accessory or antenna. You don't have to work DX, just make a few contacts a couple of states away. Have some test equipment - hint, kids love to talk into a microphone and see an oscilloscope trace jiggle. Print up some flyers about ham radio in your town - invite them to a club meeting. Have a demonstration of some special technique like working through a satellite or using a digital mode with a computer. If you can operate during a contest when contacts are made far and wide - set up a map on a piece of foam-core board and stick pins in to show where you've contacted.

Just as a bright point of light in a darkening azure sky can open a mind in unexpected ways, so can a chance encounter with you and your radio, having a good time. You, too, can be an astronaut right here on Earth.

73, Ward NØAX

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

From Ward Silver's Contest Journal...

Tom K8AZ has some good advice for stack builders. Measure or frequency sweep the feed lines to be odd $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave multiples. Make sure you include in the length any jumper from the tower to the antenna balun and the balun, too. When building feed lines, use coax off of the same spool.... and sweep it with an MFJ 259 or equivalent. Use identical baluns and make sure you know the phasing. Once installed, mark one side of the DE with red tape so you'll be able to tell what the proper phasing is years later when you're likely to have forgotten. (Of course, you *do* keep a station notebook, don't you?) The point about including baluns in the $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength is well taken - the phase shift through a balun is generally not specified and can be significant. If you want a specific electrical length of feed line between your transmitter and the antennas, be sure to include the *entire* feed line including baluns, PL-258 adaptors, jumpers, and so forth.

Speaking of baluns, if your choke balun is getting warm, why? Choke balun dissipation occurs when it doesn't have sufficiently high common mode impedance at the frequency of use. For the reasons why, read Kevin Schmidt W9CF's paper on the effects of balun location in your antenna system and the necessary impedance to get the job done!

Peter PC2A points us to a good discussion of how to use one Beverage antenna at different frequencies by using band-pass filters as a splitter. The VP6DX group used this technique and it worked very well! More on Beverage antennas is waiting for you on Mike WØBTU's web site. Just about every question you have on Beverages is addressed.

You've probably heard that placing dissimilar metals in contact with each other promotes corrosion but which combinations are better or worse than others? The farther apart the metals are in the Galvanic Series, the stronger the corrosion effects. The Corrosion Source website is full of good information about corrosion and how to prevent it.

Russ KB8U has placed pictures and text describing his portable Moxon rectangle for 6m on his website.

It assembles in about a minute, not counting hooking up the coax. There's plenty of life left in the summer sporadic E season and the ARRL September VHF QSO Party is not far away! Another multi-antenna resource page is published by Martin SMØDTK. There are lots of

antenna designs including the "Mini Horse" beam with dimensions for 40 through 2 meters.

Technical Web Site of the Week - There are lots of cookbook solutions to guy cable selection but if you really want to know the details, check out K7NV's excellent engineering analysis. Each common type of guy cable is described and characteristics compared. Good stuff! (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

Jamboree On The Air is an annual world wide scout event in which Boy and Girl Scouts all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio. Western Washington Section is hoping to establish several JOTA camps for the event. So Far we only know of Troop 466, who will be at Valley Camp North Bend. <http://valleycamp.org> ; contact "Joel Yoker <joely@microsoft.com> or Chris Brookes" <cbrookes@bellevuewa.gov>

Clubs and ARES teams are encouraged to contact their local troops to see if they would like help in setting up JOTA stations.

DATE / TIME –October 15 and 16th, Starting at 00:00 hours local Saturday, lasting 48 hours thru Sunday.

Each Station can choose its own hours in this period.

Scout CQ Jamboree Frequencies

band	SSB (phone)	CW (morse)
80 m	3.690 & 3.940 MHz	3.570 MHz
40 m	7.090 & 7.190 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 m	14.290 MHz	14.060 MHz
17 m	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15 m	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12 m	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10 m	28.390 MHz	28.180 MHz
6 m	50.160 MHz	50.160 MHz

Here's how Western Washington Amateur Radio Clubs and ARES teams can be involved:

- Locate local JOTA activity or offer to support Troop in your club area via Scout Round Table.

- Please let us know of the JOTA camp you are supporting and how. hhamby@msn.com

- Support JOTA camp with one or more radios with two person teams, for each 10 scouts planned. Determine the time period the Scouts would like the stations on the air. Use HAM Scouts as operators and club youth if available.

- Demonstrate multiple modes: HF, CW, VHF/UHF, IRLP, D star, APRS

- Support any Merit Badge Planned Training and special events.

- Inform Scouts how to become an Amateur Radio Operator; Training and Test Schedule.

Any HAM can support JOTA from their base station as a contact with Scouts; please make contact if possible.

Good general JOTA 2011 resource site; a place to get ideas:

http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/the_54th_jota_2011

Attaboys:

By the time this issue reaches you, we should be well into the W7DK at the Fair operations, headed up by Steve AD7AB. There is a pile of work that has to be done every year to make this event successful and Sparky tips his fedora to Steve and his team who help us present amateur

radio and the Radio Club of Tacoma to the thousands of fair visitors every year.

As most of you who visit the clubhouse occasionally know, we've seen steady improvements over the past few years, a new roof, new windows, lighting and cleaning up the front steps, new perimeter security lighting and the outside was scrubbed down this spring. The Museum and Library have seen major upgrades and new overhead can lighting has replaced many of the stark fluorescent tube fixtures.

Now comes a new project aimed at remodeling the HF room to accommodate multiple stations, remodel the "Simmons" room to make better use of the space, and update the main floor HF station. Thanks to the folks who generously donate their time and skills to making our clubhouse a place to be proud of.

Another attaboy goes to Bruce W7EP who has been observed several weekends holding court at the HF station, assisting others on the use of the equipment and last Saturday demonstrating some digital modes software and operations.

Its time too, to recognize the Open House crew who insure a clubhouse welcome with coffee and donuts most every Saturday. Joe Lester K7ZG, John AC7WW, Bruce W7EP, Larry KD4VOM, Al K7HW and Frank AC7JY who takes the occasional Saturday when there 5 Saturdays in the month.

View from the Shack.

We are still notoriously unsuccessful in finding anyone to head up our 95th Anniversary Celebration. A restaurant is reserved, but so far no one has stepped up to get the word out and manage the operation. Seems a shame

If you want to step up, . Contact Al N7OMS or Larry KD4VOM.

Sparky "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything"

The Disclaimer...

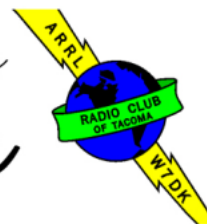
These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and a attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.



An easy way to add that second radio to your station's mix of gear? Or is it a brand new way to start working the satellites? For \$7.95 you can't go rong...go rong...go rong... (Thanks, Dink N7WA)



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



SEPTEMBER 2011 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays September 14th and 28th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday August 1st 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .